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D.H.J.

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Krister HANSSON et al.

Group Art Unit: 2125

Serial No.: 09/718,380

Examiner: S. Garland

Filed: November 24, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR ACHIEVING DECOR ON SURFACE ELEMENTS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 1, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 1-21 and 27-32 are pending. Initially, as the objections to and rejections of the drawings, specification and claims under 35 USC § 112 and/or § 102(b), second paragraph, have not been repeated in the Office Action, Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing these rejections/objections.

Claims 1-21, 27-29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mckee (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,931) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,617,009), optionally in further view of Newton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,559). These rejections have been carried forth from the Office Action of July 2, 2003.

However, as argued in the Amendment of May 28, 2004, Chen et al. is not a proper reference against the present claims. Applicants conceived of the subject matter recited in the claims of this application prior to the filing date of Chen et al., i.e., December 14, 1999, and were diligent until the filing of the priority document, i.e., SE 9904781-3 on December 23, 1999. Thus, Applicants respectfully present that Chen et al. is not a proper reference against the present claims of this application.